

MAJORITY MEMBERS

Jack Brooks, Texas, Chairman
 John Conyers, Jr., Michigan
 Cardiss Collins, Illinois
 Glenn English, Oklahoma
 Henry A. Waxman, California
 Ted Weiss, New York
 Mike Synar, Oklahoma
 Stephen L. Neal, North Carolina
 Doug Barnard, Jr., Georgia
 Barney Frank, Massachusetts
 Tom Lantos, California
 Robert E. Wise, Jr., West Virginia
 Major R. Owens, New York
 Edolphus Towns, New York
 John M. Spratt, Jr., South Carolina
 Joe Kolter, Pennsylvania
 Ben Erdreich, Alabama
 Gerald D. Kleczka, Wisconsin
 Albert G. Bustamante, Texas
 Matthew G. Martinez, California
 Thomas C. Sawyer, Ohio
 Louise M. Slaughter, New York
 Bill Grant, Florida
 Nancy Pelosi, California

ONE HUNDREDTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

2157 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

February 22, 1988

CONTACT: Stuart Weisberg or Roland Williams
 Employment & Housing Subcommittee
 202 - 225-6751

MINORITY MEMBERS

Frank Horton, New York
 Robert S. Walker, Pennsylvania
 William F. Clinger, Jr., Pennsylvania
 Al McCandless, California
 Larry E. Craig, Idaho
 Howard C. Nielson, Utah
 Joseph J. DioGuardi, New York
 Jim Lightfoot, Iowa
 Beau Boulter, Texas
 Donald E. "Buz" Lukens, Ohio
 Amory Houghton, Jr., New York
 J. Dennis Hastert, Illinois
 Jon L. Kyl, Arizona
 Ernest L. Konnyu, California
 James M. Inhofe, Oklahoma

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LANTOS PANEL TO EXPLORE "CAFETERIA" BENEFIT PLAN FOR FEDERAL WORKERS

The feasibility of establishing a "cafeteria" flexible benefit plan or a flexible spending account for Federal workers will be the subject of a hearing to be held by the Employment and Housing Subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Congressman Tom Lantos, (D-CA). The hearing was announced by full Government Operations Committee Chairman Jack Brooks, (D-Texas).

The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 2203 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

In recent years a growing number of companies in the private sector have been offering their workers "cafeteria" benefit plans, which permit workers to design their own benefit package by selecting from a menu of available fringe benefits. There has also been an increased private sector use of flexible spending accounts or reimbursement accounts which allow workers to set aside pre-tax dollars to pay for child care costs, care of an elderly dependent, or health care expenses.

Subcommittee Chairman Lantos stated, "The growth of 'cafeteria' benefit plans in the private sector reflects the dramatic increase in the number of two-wage earner families and changing family needs. The concept that one size fits all is as absurd with respect to benefits as with clothing. Federal workers should also be given the opportunity to tailor their benefits to meet their individual or family needs."

Witnesses scheduled to testify at the hearing include: Constance Horner, Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management; representatives from the General Accounting Office; Kenneth Blaylock, President of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE); James Pierce, President of the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE); Robert Tobias, President of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU); Becky Steele of the Marriott Corporation; and Laura Keenan from the Employers Council on Flexible Compensation.

Other Members of the Subcommittee are: Bill Grant, (D-FL); Nancy Pelosi, (D-CA); Ted Weiss, (D-NY); Joseph J. DioGuardi, (R-NY); Jon L. Kyl, (R-AZ) and Christopher Shays, (R-Conn.). Jack Brooks, (D-Texas) and Frank Horton, (R-NY) are ex officio members.

- END -